DECEMBER 2026 | JANUARY 2027 | FEBRUARY 2027

THE HEART OF ST. LUKE'S

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH | CLEVELAND, TENNESSEE

ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS

SUNDAY, NOV. 29TH

Join us as we enter the season of Advent with a service led by the Adult Choir and Episcopal Youth Community.

SERVICE AT 6:00 PM*

**Service available online and in-person.*

ADVENT MEDITATIONS

TUESDAYS IN DECEMBER AT 12:10 PM*



Fr. Joel will be offering an Advent Meditation Series on Tuesdays, at 12:10 PM as part of Noonday Prayer* throughout the season of Advent.

Each meditation will look closely at one of the Advent Lectionary readings as we consider anew what it means to live in a season of waiting, hope, and expectation.

BACH'S LUNCH AND CONCERT SERIES



WEDNESDAYS AT NOON*
DECEMBER 2ND, 9TH, & 16TH

December 2nd
Dr. Devon Howard, organ
December 9th
Kristiana McCombs, cello
December 16th
St. Luke's Adult Choir

A LIGHT LUNCH WILL FOLLOW IN THE PARISH HALL

**Services available online and in-person.*



A Note from the Church Office: The deadline for Financial Contributions to the Church to be included in your 2026 Contribution Statement is **Wednesday, December 30th**.

Online, Stock, and Bill Pay Contributions must be submitted by **Friday, December 18th** so that they will Clear the bank before the end of the year.

Christmas Flowers

Help us decorate the church for the Christmas Season



As part of our Christmas tradition here at St. Luke's we decorate the church with beautiful poinsettias every year to the glory of God and in honor, memory, or thanksgiving of a loved one. It serves not only to make St. Luke's more beautiful, but as a thoughtful reminder throughout the Christmas season of those we hold dear.

If you would like to include a remembrance in the bulletin, please list their names on this form and return it to the church office no later than **Friday, December 18th.**

We want everyone to be able to remember their loved ones this Christmas, so any amount is gratefully accepted — please give whatever feels comfortable for you.

Please make your check payable to St. Luke's Episcopal Church and indicate "Christmas Flowers" on the memo line.

NAME

_____

PHONE NUMBER

_____

IN MEMORY OF

_____

IN THANKSGIVING FOR

_____

IN HONOR OF

_____

GIVEN BY

_____

AMOUNT GIVEN $

_____

Join us at St. Luke's for our celebration of the Christmas Season

Christmas Eve

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

- No 12:10 PM Weekly Eucharist
- **5:00 PM** | HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II*
  with Christmas Pageant; Nursery Provided
- **8:00 PM** | HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I
  Nursery Provided
- **10:30 PM** | HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II*

Christmas Day

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

- **10:00 AM** | HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I

1st Sunday of Christmas

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27TH

- **8:00 AM** | HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I
- **10:00 AM** | HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II*
  Nursery Provided

If your Children and Youth will be in town for Christmas Eve and would like to participate in the Christmas Pageant during the 5:00 PM service, please let the office know as soon as possible so we have enough parts and costumes.

We would love to include as many children and grandchildren as possible, especially those who might be visiting from out of town!

If you would like to volunteer to assist with the pageant, please contact Isaac in the church office at (423) 476-5541.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31ST

- No 12:10 PM Weekly Eucharist

2nd Sunday of Christmas

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3RD

- **8:00 AM** | HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE I
- **10:00 AM** | HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II*
  Nursery Provided

**Service available online and in-person.*

INTRODUCING OUR NEW ADULT FORMATION COORDINATOR



Lori Jacob
Adult Formation Coordinator

Adult Formation | Winter 2027

SUNDAYS AT 9:30 AM | PARISH HALL

December 6, 13, & 20
'Our Father': The Meaning and Beauty of the Lord's Prayer
with Dr. Wesley Biddy

January 10, 17, & 31
The Unspoken Sermons of George McDonald, Part II
with Dr. Matthew Melton

February 7 & 14
One Faith, Many Faces: How Different Cultures Picture Christianity
with Jennifer Matthews

February 21, 28, & March 7
Prone to Wander: Profiles in Trying (and Failing) to Avoid God's Love
with Lori Jacob

St. Luke's is delighted to announce that Lori Jacob officially began her role as our part-time Adult Formation Coordinator on November 1, 2026. Lori is no stranger to our parish. She has served St. Luke's as a volunteer in adult formation since 2025, and we are grateful that she is now joining our staff.

Lori brings both experience and enthusiasm to this ministry. During her time as a volunteer, she led the weekly Women's Bible Study, taught the adult Sunday School class, scheduled speakers and planned curriculum for the adult education program, and has chaired the planning team for the Women's Retreat. As a member of the lay preaching team she has also preached at St. Luke's on several occasions. Lori serves as an EfM mentor, guiding participants through group study, spiritual reflection, and theological discussion.

Before coming to St. Luke's, Lori volunteered for more than a decade at Vineyard Chattanooga, where she preached on a rotating basis, led a small group, and supported church operations. Her professional background includes nearly a decade at Unum in Chattanooga. A graduate of Union University in Jackson, Tennessee, Lori earned a Bachelor of Arts in Christian Ethics and Sociology in 2007.

Lori is married to Brian, and together they have two children, Audrey (9) and Ethan (8), who are also active members of the St. Luke's family. The Jacobs make their home in Ooltewah, Tennessee.

Join us in welcoming Lori as she begins this new chapter of service, helping all of us grow in faith, knowledge, and fellowship.

A NOTE FROM FR. JOEL

Dear Friends,
My thanks to all of you who participated in the series of classes on *Theo of Golden,* either in-person or online. It was my pleasure to offer the series, and I am grateful for your gracious support.

We welcome Lori Jacob to the church staff as our new Adult Formation Coordinator. In addition to her work in education, Lori will also be helping out in the church office. Lori, welcome to the team!

As part of our St. Luke's Day celebration, we celebrated Isaac Doty's 20th anniversary of service to St. Luke's! Isaac has been performing the work of interim Parish Administrator while continuing with his other duties since May. It is my pleasure to welcome Isaac officially to his new role as Parish Administrator. Isaac, along with our (growing) team of office volunteers, have done an exemplary job overseeing the work of the church office for months. Thank you, Isaac, and to our volunteers.

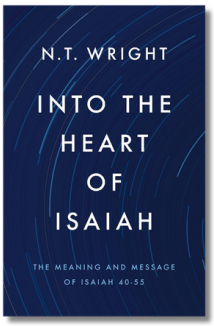
The contents of this newsletter cover parish life from Advent to Ash Wednesday. "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven…" Ecclesiastes 3:1.

Love and peace,



The 'Great Books' Book Club meets on a Wednesday evening each month to discuss a great literary work. If you would like to learn more or are interested in joining the group, please contact Fred Mueller at (423) 650-1867 or the church office at (423) 476-5541.

December 16 | "A Weary Hour" by T. Mann
January 20 | "The Piazza" by Herman Melville
February 17 | *The Wife* by Sigrid Undset



The Women's Bible Study meets regularly on Wednesday mornings in the Gathering Room of the Parish House from 10:00 AM — 11:15 AM. We return from our Advent and Christmas hiatus on Wednesday, January 6th. Our new series is *Into the Heart of Isaiah: The Meaning and Message of Isaiah 40-55* by N.T. Wright. The Women's Bible Study is led by Lori Jacob.

Men's Prayer Breakfast meets Friday mornings at 7:00 AM in the Parish Hall for food, fellowship, and prayer with a guided Bible Study each week by a member of the group.

THE PRAYER TREE

The power of prayer during Christmas is profound, as it helps individuals connect with God and reflect on the true meaning of the season. There are so many in our parish, community, state, nation and the world in need of prayer. The Prayer Shawl Ministry (PSM) compiled a list of first names from the church and additional requests from ministry members. PSM is making Christmas ornaments that will hang on a Prayer Tree in the Narthex beginning November 29th until the ornaments have all been taken. Each ornament is a gift to you with a prayer request attached. In taking an ornament, you are committing to pray for the name on the card throughout the Christmas season and beyond.

From PSM: We hope you enjoy this power of prayer project and welcome your feedback and support. We meet the 4th Monday of each month, 6:00 PM, Gathering Room II. Our next meeting is January 25th.

Join us for a time of creativity, learning, and fellowship! Bring whatever project you're working and join St. Luke's weekly Creative Circle held in the Gathering Room from 1:30 PM – 3:30 PM on Thursdays. Whether you'd like to learn about watercolors, paint with oils or acrylics, are piecing a sewing pattern, or working on a quilt, please join us for a time of community and encouragement.

CLEVELAND HALF MARATHON, 10K, & 5K





We had a wonderful group representing St. Luke's at the Cleveland Half Marathon, 10K, and 5K on Saturday, October 24th! With our beautiful church featured on this year's race medal, we couldn't pass up the opportunity to show up, participate, and cheer on our community!

Whether running, walking, keeping the route safe, or cheering from the sidelines, it was a great morning of fellowship, encouragement, and community spirit. We love being part of Cleveland and celebrating the things that make our hometown so special! Congratulations to everyone who participated! We're proud of our St. Luke's crew!

Thank you very much for allowing me to use St. Luke's historic building as this year's Cleveland Half Marathon Finisher's Medal! I was honored to depict your historic church on the medal, and the runners all loved them. Thank you for your support and your loving presence in Cleveland!

Brittany

TERRA RUNNING CO.
CLEVELAND, TENNESSEE
ESTD 2016





Feast Of Lights

Sunday, January 10th
Service at 10:45 AM*



Join us as we celebrate Epiphany with the Feast of Lights and Holy Eucharist led by the St. Luke's Adult Choir and Episcopal Youth Community.

Our 8:00 AM and 9:30 AM Services of Holy Eucharist and Church School Classes will happen as usual.

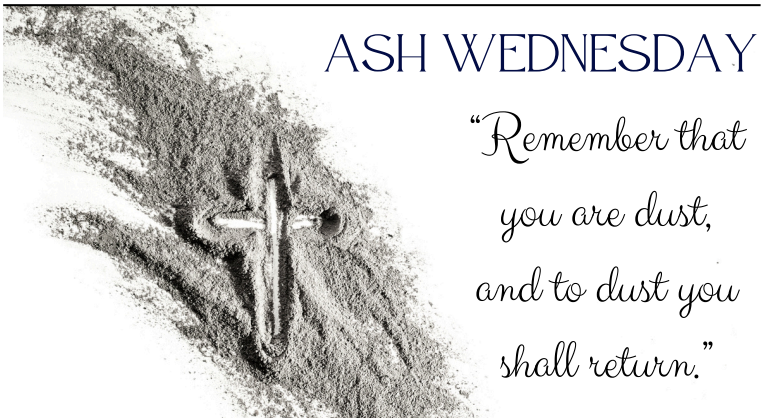
Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday, January 24th
9:15 AM - 10:30 AM

In January 2027 we will elect four new Vestry members to serve a three-year term on the St. Luke's Vestry. The Nominating Committee will meet to form a slate of nominees.

The members of the Nominating Committee are Lou Patten (Senior Warden), Rose Allen, Jennifer Matthews, Nathan Napier, and Stephanie Taylor. **The deadline for suggestions is Friday, December 11th**. To make a suggestion to the Nominating Committee, please contact the church office at (423) 476-5541.

Biographies for the eight Vestry Nominees will be published in January. **The Vestry Election will be held as part of the Annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, January 24, 2027, at 9:15 AM.**



ASH WEDNESDAY

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

HOLY EUCHARIST AND THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

Wednesday, February 10th
12:00 PM* and 6:00 PM*

**Service available online and in-person.*
Nursery provided for the 6:00 PM service.

Parish Family Notes

- Congratulations to Jude Jacob Haines Abdo on his baptism. Jude is the son of Jacob Abdo and Erica Evans Abdo.
- Congratulations to Harrison Cread Ownbey on his baptism. Harrison is the son of Porter Ownbey and Kate Harper Ownbey, and grandson of Ian and Lisa Harper.
- Congratulations to Luke Morgan, Eli Morgan, and Blaise Morgan on their baptisms. Luke, Eli, and Blaise are the children on Caleb and Kristin Morgan.
- Welcome to Ethan Rule, who joined St. Luke's as a baptized member.
- Welcome to Sonie Mills-Prettyman, who joined St. Luke's as a baptized member.
- Welcome to Barbara and Phillip Gordon, who transferred their membership to St. Luke's from the Church of the Good Shepherd, Lake Wales, FL.
- Congratulations to Briley Moore Harris and Marc Harris on their marriage at St. Luke's on November 14th. Briley is the daughter of Cindy and Doug Moore and sister of Jackson Moore.
- Sympathy to the family and friends of Ophelia Ball, former Nursery Staff at St. Luke's, who passed recently.
- Sympathy to the family and friends of Will Thorogood, who passed recently.
- Sympathy to Cindy Moore, family, and friends of Kay Seymour, who passed recently.
- Sympathy to Jane Lucchesi, family, and friends of Ina C. Kagel, who passed recently.
- Sympathy to Jo Groothius, family, and friends of Stanley Groothius, who passed recently.
- Sympathy to the family and friends of Bettie Cooke, who passed recently.

St. Luke's Memorial Episcopal Church
P. O. Box 5
Cleveland, Tennessee 37364-0005

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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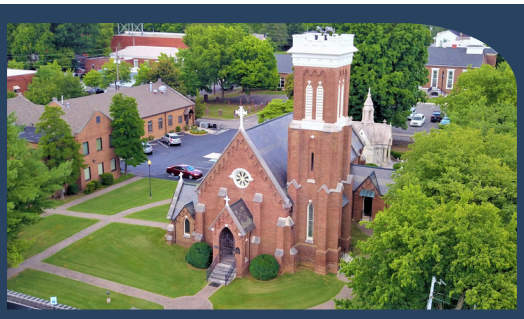

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"Faithful Echoes" Podcast

www.stlukescleveland.org

stlukes@stlukescleveland.org

(423) 476-5541

Regular Service Schedule

Sundays, 8:00 AM - Holy Eucharist, Rite I
Sundays, 9:30 AM - Holy Eucharist, Rite II
Sundays, 9:30 AM - Adult Choir Rehearsal & Church School for All Ages
Sundays, 10:45 AM - Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Music*

Thursdays, 12:10 PM - Holy Eucharist, Rite II*

**Services also available at www.stlukescleveland.org/live*

Office Hours
Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

The Rt. Rev. Brian L. Cole, *Bishop*
The People of St. Luke's, *Ministers*

St. Luke's Staff

The Rev. Dr. Joel W. Huffstetler, *Rector*
The Rev. Arthur Bass, *Vocational Deacon*
Dr. Andrea Dismukes, *Director of Music*
Dr. Devon Howard, *Organist*
Mr. Isaac Doty, *Parish Administrator & Minister to Youth*
Mrs. Lori Jacob, *Adult Formation Coordinator*
Mrs. Molly Jackson, *Children's Church School Coordinator*
Mrs. Abbey Waddell, *Nursery Co-Supervisor*
Mrs. Sadie Newsome, *Nursery Co-Supervisor*
Mrs. Donna Blair, *Sexton*
Mr. James Jackson, *Buildings Manager*

St. Luke's Vestry

2027
Rose Allen
Jennifer Matthews
Nathan Napier
Stephanie Taylor

2028
Sarah Brown
Gary Farlow
Lou Patten
Abbey Waddell

2029
Kyle Cooper
Hans Hadland
Janey Patten
Tammy Randolph